

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0032

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, HU

SUBJECT: NEW DEPTUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. PRESS ANNOUNCED DEC 29 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD RELIEVED PAL RACZ OF HIS POST AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND APPOINTED HIM DEPUTY FONMIN. PRESUMABLY, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY, AS SOME SHIFTS ARE IN OFFING, RACZ WILL OCCUPY POSITION FORMERLY HELD BY JOSZEF MARJAI, WHO WAS RECENTLY MADE UNDERSECRETARY. IF HE DOES, HE WILL SUPERVISE MFA OPERATIONS IN FAR EAST, INCLUDING HUNGDEL ICCS.

2. ALTHOUGH RACZ HAS BEEN DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR SINCE NOV. 1970, HE HAS OCCUPIED MANY DIPLOMATIC POSTS SINCE 1948 (E.G., BERN, BELGRADE, WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, AND PARIS. FROM 1961 TO 1963 HE WAS IN CHARGE OF US AFFAIRS IN MFA. HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO UAR (SUDAN AND YEMEN) FROM 1963-68 AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL IN FONMIN 1968-1970.

3. ACCORDING TO REPORTS AT OUR DISPOSAL RACZ WAS MEMBER OF AVH IN EARLY 1950'S AND ONCE WAS ARRESTED DURING PURGE OF SECURITY POLICE. IN 1957 USG ASKED FOR RACZ'S REMOVAL FOR ATTEMPTING, WHILE SERVING AT GOH UN MISSION, TO PERSUADE HUNGARIAN-BORN US SCIENTISTS TO RETURN TO HUNGARY AND TO SEND SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES HERE. UK RE-
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FUSED TO HAVE HIM POSTED TO LONDON IN 1950.

4. ONE BIO REPORT WE HAVE SAYS RACZ'S FATHER, ONE OF FOUNDERS OF COMPARTY OF ROMANIA, CAME TO HUNGARY IN 1946 BECAUSE OF DISPUTE WITH ROMANIAN LEADERS (PRESUMABLY OVER TRANSYLVANIA). SAME REPORT DESCRIBES RACZ AS MORE LIKE ITALIAN OR FRENCH COMMUNIST THAN HUNGARIAN. SAID HE WAS MUCH CRITICIZED FOR SOME LOVE AFFAIRS WHILE IN PARIS AND, PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT TO CAIRO AS AMBASSADOR, HE SOUGHT TO DIVORCE HIS WIFE AND REMARRY. ONLY HIS FATHER'S INFLUENCE WITH HSWP LEADERS SAVED HIM FROM BEING OUSTED FROM FOREIGN OFFICE.
5. RACZ APPARENTLY HAS HAD NO SOVIET EXPERIENCE AND, ACCORDING TO SAME REPORT, HAS BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF SOVIETS. PUJA REPORTEDLY DOES NOT LIKE HIM BECAUSE HE HAS SAME SENTIMENTS AS MANY HUNGARIAN INTELLECTUALS. IF THIS IS TRUE, HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT TAKES ON A NEW SIGNIFICANCE, PERHAPS DIFFERENT THAN THAT IMPLIED BY HIS APPARENT AVH BACKGROUND.
6. RACZ REPORTEDLY SPEAKS GOOD ROMANIAN, FRENCH, AND ENGLISH AND IS DESCRIBED BY SOME SOURCES AS FORTHRIGHT, INTELLIGENT, DIPLOMAT, WHO TAKES MODERATE POSITION ON IDEOLOGICAL ISSUES.
7. SINCE WE MAY HAVE SOME DEALINGS WITH RACZ, WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION OR JUDGMENTS ABOUT HIM THAT DEPT MAY PROVIDE.
PEDERSEN

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